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Oracle: A Game of Cultural Awareness

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School for International Training

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ORACLE

A Game of Cultural Awareness

by

Allyn Wiley-Billings

Submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the
Masters of Arts in Teaching degree
at the School for International Training,
Brattleboro, Vermont

September 1980

This project by Allyn Wiley-Billings
is accepted in its present form.

Date: Sept. 26, 1980

Principal Advisor: Michael J. Prall

Project Adviser/Reader: John R. Horton

ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this project is to promote meaningful cross-cultural communication in the ESL classroom. As a game, ORACLE works on various levels. The most obvious area is more effective language use through reading, speaking and writing. As a tool for cultural awareness, it reveals participants' underlying impressions/prejudices of one another as well as working on their ability to listen beyond the words spoken to the personality beneath. Its intent is the enrichment of people through cooperation and the understanding of the unpredictable nature of Humankind.

MAJOR ERIC DESCRIPTORS:

Cross-cultural Studies
Creative Expression
Cultural Awareness
Attitudes
Cultural Factors

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Playing Time:

30 to 60 minutes; allow up to one hour for the initial game.

Players:

4 to 6 people; aged teenage or older; Intermediate/Advanced and Beginning ESL levels.

Materials: (See Appendix A, attached)

- 1 game board
- 1 four colored die
- 6 different tokens
- 6 ORACLE pads and pencils
- Separate sets of blue, orange and yellow cards for Intermediate/Advanced and Beginning levels
- 1 set of pink cards used for both levels

Suggestions for Preparation:

Teacher Preparation:

- a) check through the cards beforehand for an idea of what to expect. Delete from the game any that are inappropriate for your group.
- b) read the RULES yourself and be prepared to paraphrase their content. The initial use of this game goes best with a few trial turns so all are clear on sequence of events and movement.

Classroom Preparation:

- a) introduce this game by stressing its enlightening quality; the chance to check impressions and preconceived notions; the possibility to discover more about people in terms of culture and personality; and above all, to communicate and listen to yourself and others.
- b) have each player establish who is on his/her right and left as well as across from him/her.
- c) make sure card directions are understood (i.e., go forward, backward, move 3 spaces), as well as game procedures.

During Play:

There is an answer key card for the yellow (factual) cards that you may wish to use. It only gives the actual answer NOT what must be written for a correct match. Be sure to remove this answer card before the start of play. During the game itself, discussions may occur among students and should be encouraged. Otherwise, take notes yourself and use them as a guideline for follow-up discussions.

Follow-up:

This is an integral part and must not be overlooked.

Evaluation/discussion questions might include:

- a) What have you learned by playing ORACLE?
- b) Have you changed in any way? How?
- c) Were you ever surprised during the game?
- d) Are there any topics that you feel merit more discussion?

RULES OF THE GAME

1. Shuffle each set of cards and place face down in the color-coded spot on the game board. (See Appendix A, attached)
2. Each player chooses a token, a lane on the board (START 1-6), and a marker pad and pencil. (NOTE: each lane has the same number of spaces and an equal number of colors.)
3. The first player (with token in lane #1) rolls the die and moves to the closest space matching the color on the die (see exceptions #7).
4. The player draws a card matching the color on the die and reads the card aloud. The player may place the card face up on the board for all to see.
5. BOTH players now involved then write on their own pads: The player who asks the question writes only the answer s/he EXPECTS the other person to give. The other player writes only his/her response (a, b, c, d or 1, 2, 3 unless otherwise indicated).

THIS ISN'T A GAME OF "RIGHT" ANSWERS. EVEN IN THE CASE OF FACTUAL QUESTIONS, A "WRONG" ANSWER MAY BE CORRECT BECAUSE BOTH ANSWERS MATCH.

6. When ready, BOTH players show their answers. Each color-card indicates the reward or penalty for answer/matches. BOTH players then move their tokens as directed; either forward or backward and the color-card is returned to the bottom of its pile. A PLAYER NOT YET BEYOND START IS NOT PENALIZED FOR AN INCORRECT MATCH.
Rotation of players is to the right. Each succeeding player's turn is played in the exact same manner as the first player's turn. There are NO double turns. Each player gets only one turn each rotation and a turn ALWAYS begins with a roll of the die.
7. Players will always move FORWARD to the nearest matching color EXCEPT in the following situations:
 - a) when a card says otherwise
 - b) when there is NO matching color ahead - in this case the player would move back to the nearest matching color
 - c) when the player rolls the color upon which his/her token rests at that moment. The player then does not move but takes a card of that color.
8. The first player to reach the other end of the board (FINISH) wins. Finish is reached only by making a correct match or by being party to a correct match. You do not need the exact number to finish the game.

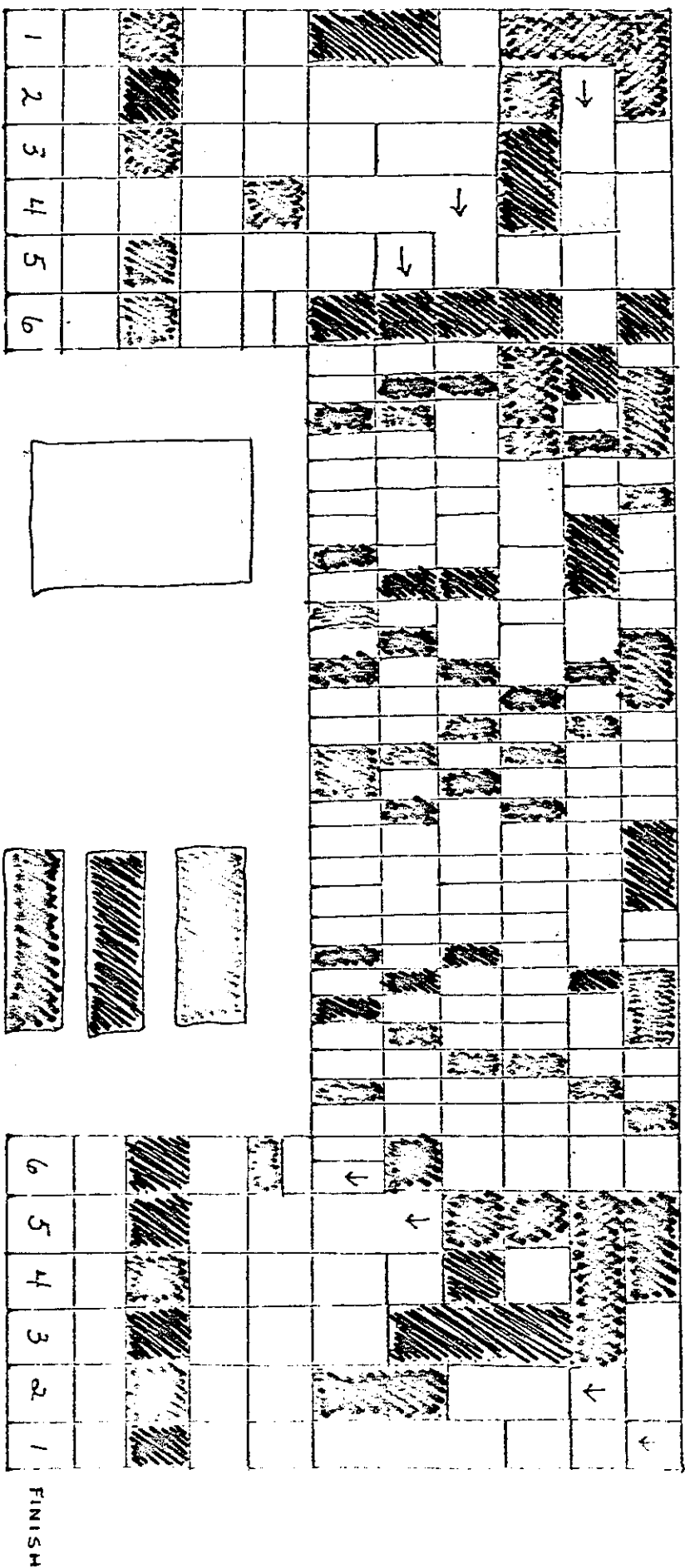
WORKS CONSULTED

- Abt, Clark C. Serious Games. New York: The Viking Press, 1970.
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- Parnes, Sidney J. Creative Behavior Guidebook. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1967.

APPENDIX A

8

ORACLE
A facsimile of the
game board



ORACLE

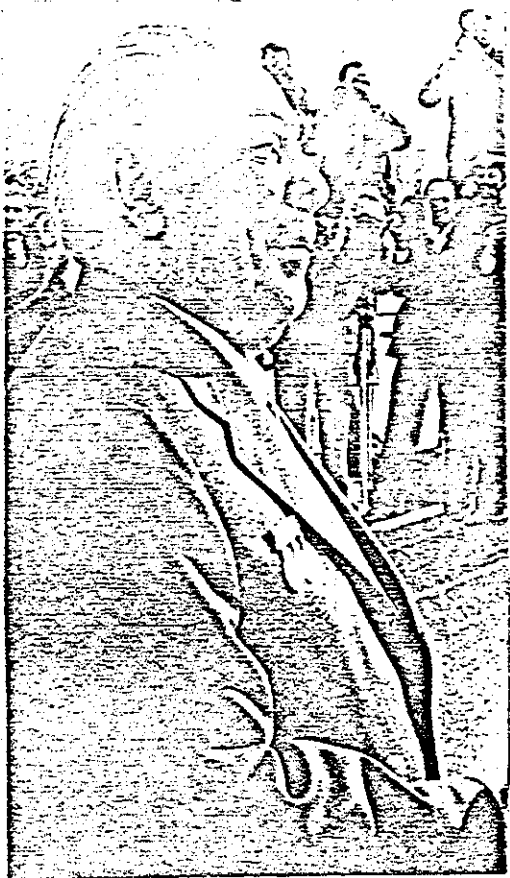
VS THE PLAYER ACROSS FROM YOU:

Answer with ONE sentence:

Why is this man famous?

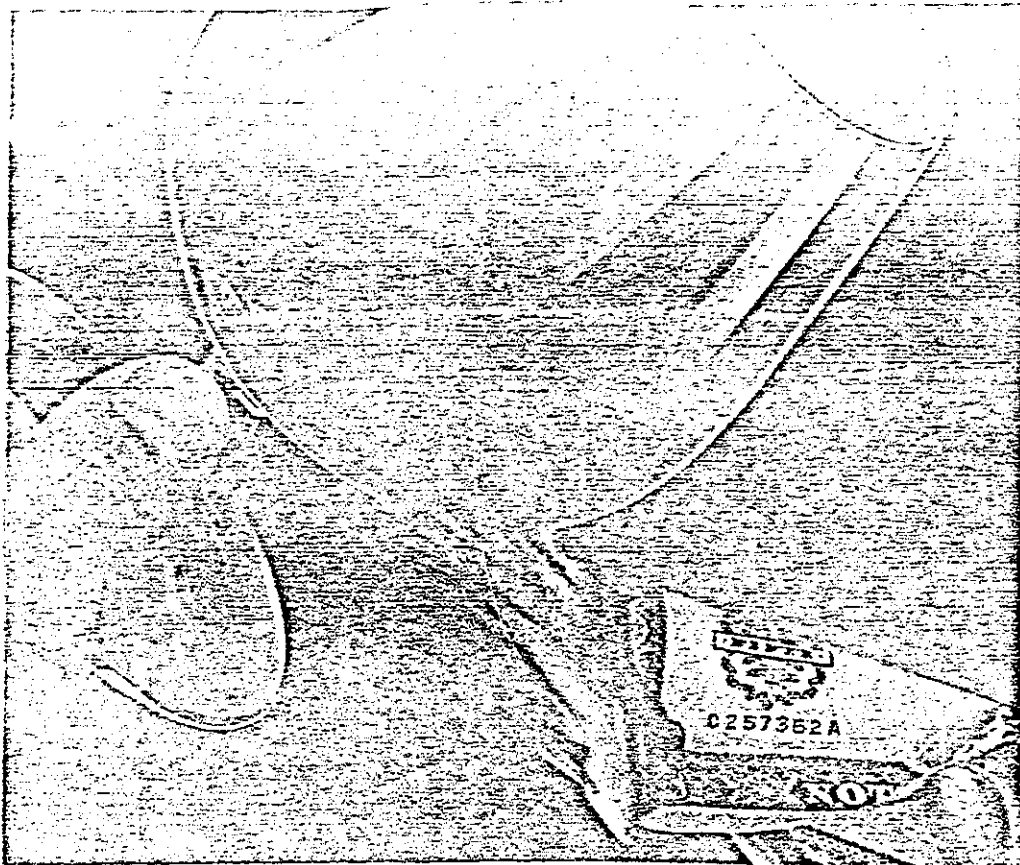
Correct Match: both move forward 4 spaces

Incorrect Match: both move backward 1 space



PINK CARDS

(for use with both sets)



ASK THE PLAYER ACROSS
FROM YOU:

(a)

Is this a luxury or
a waste?

(b)

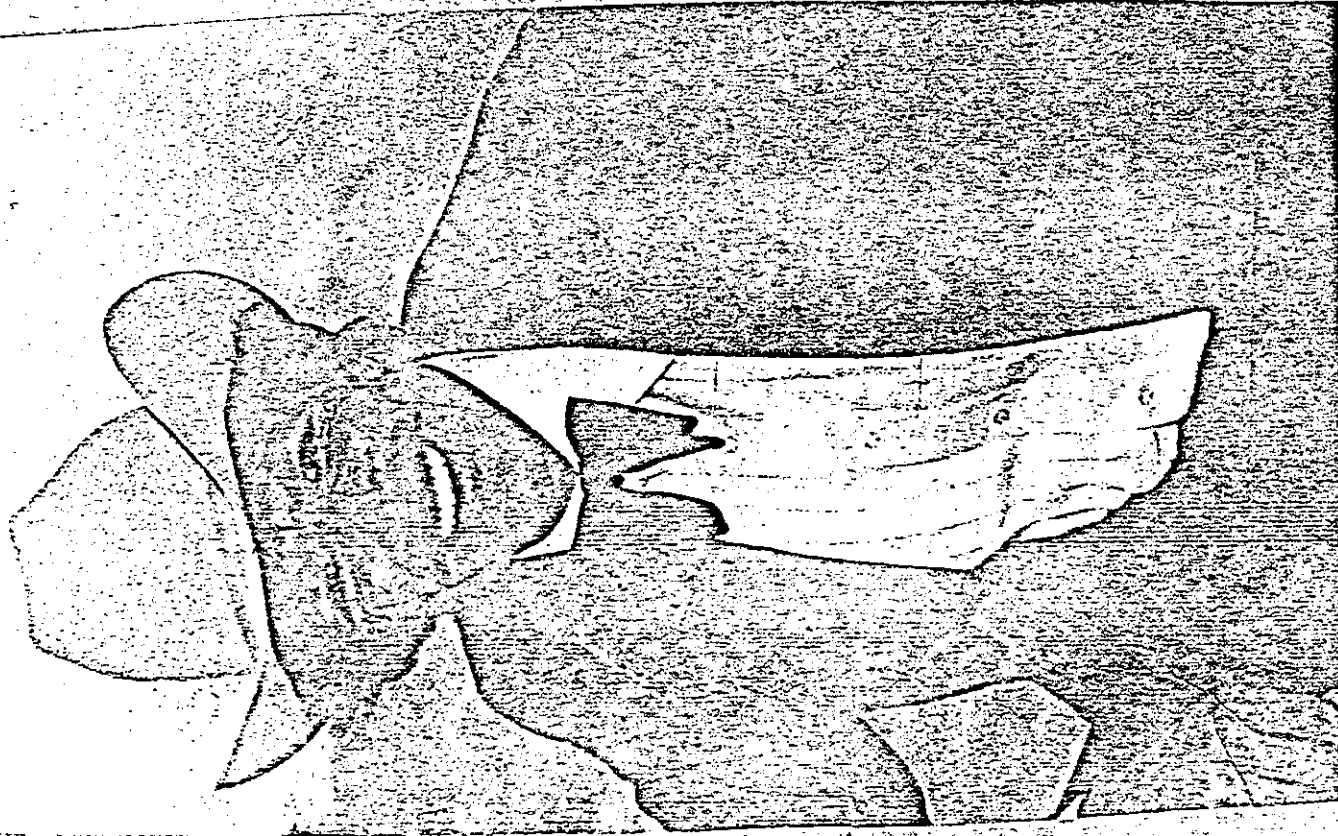
Correct Match: both
move forward 6 spaces
Incorrect Match: both
move backward 2 spaces

ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR RIGHT:

Write ONE word that tells how you feel
when you see this picture.

Correct Match: both move forward
3 spaces
Incorrect Match: both move backward
2 spaces



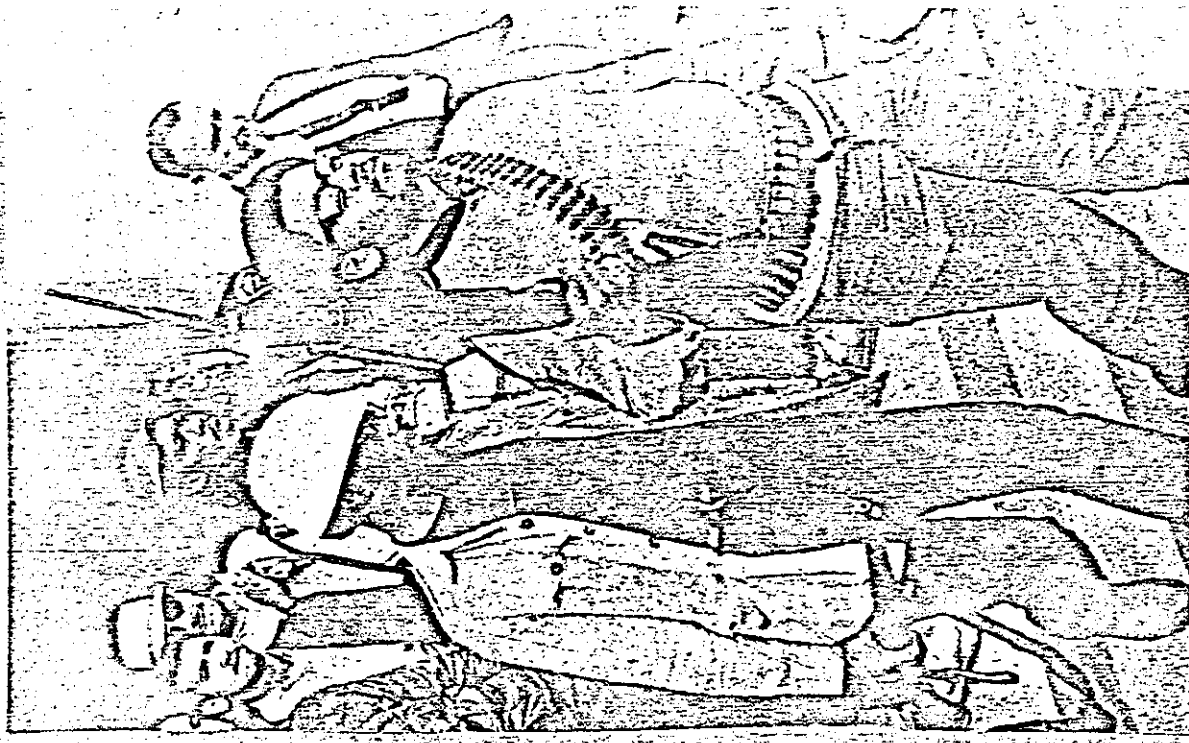


ASK THE PLAYER ACROSS FROM YOU:

Why is this man smiling?

Correct Match: both move forward 2 spaces

Incorrect Match: both move backward 1 space



ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR RIGHT:

Write one word that tells about this photo.

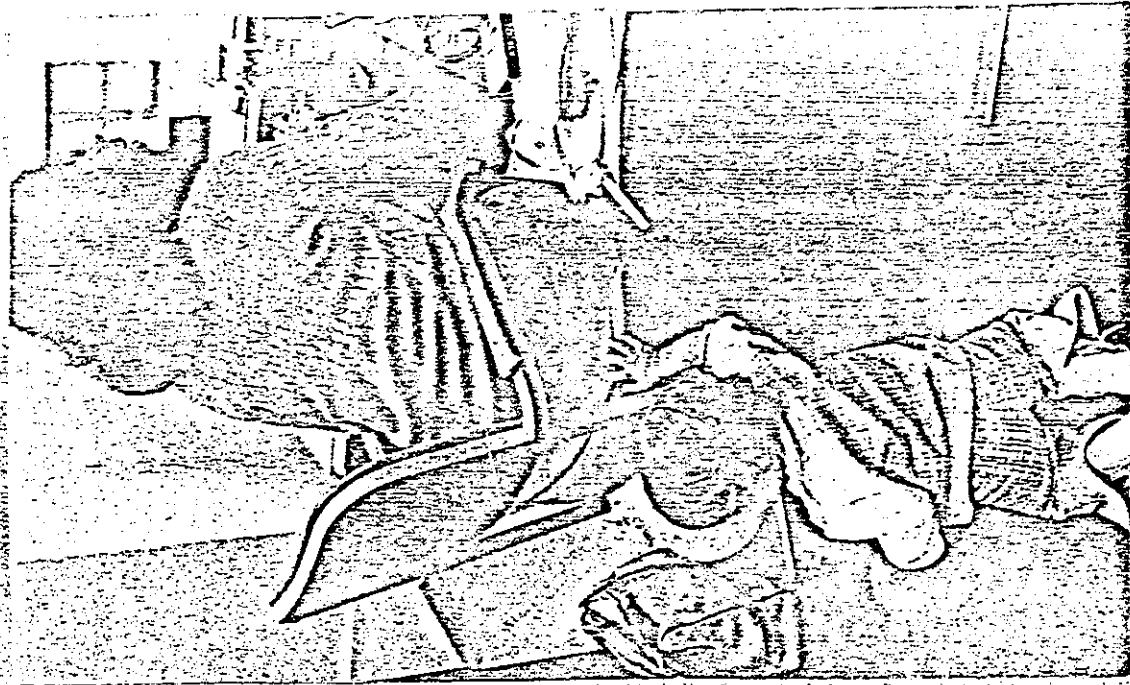
Correct Match: both move forward 3 spaces

Incorrect Match: both move backward 1 space

ASK THE PLAYER ACROSS FROM YOU:

What time of day is this?
morning/afternoon/evening
(a) (b) (c)

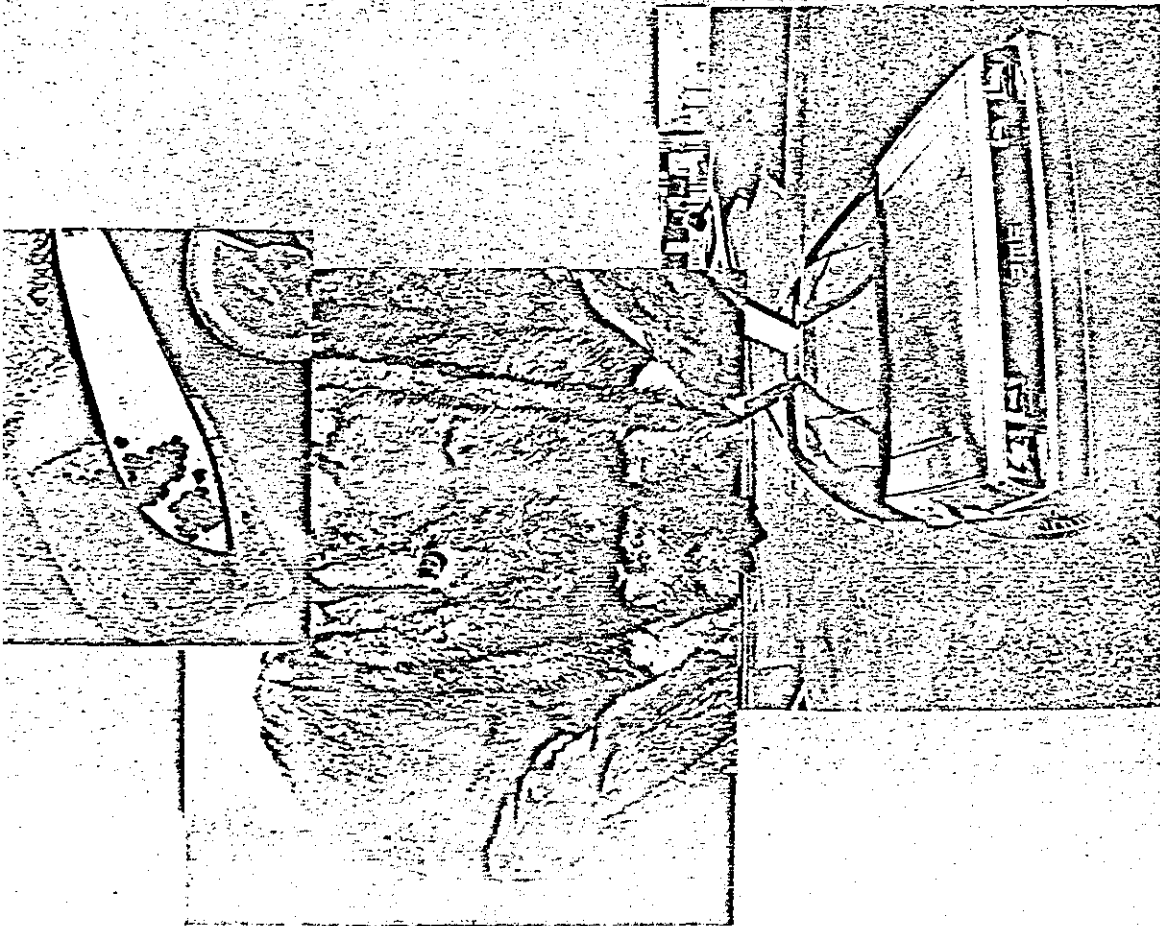
Correct match: both move forward 4 spaces
Incorrect Match: both move backward 1 space



ASK THE PLAYER ACROSS FROM YOU:

Answer YES or NO:
Is this a good idea?

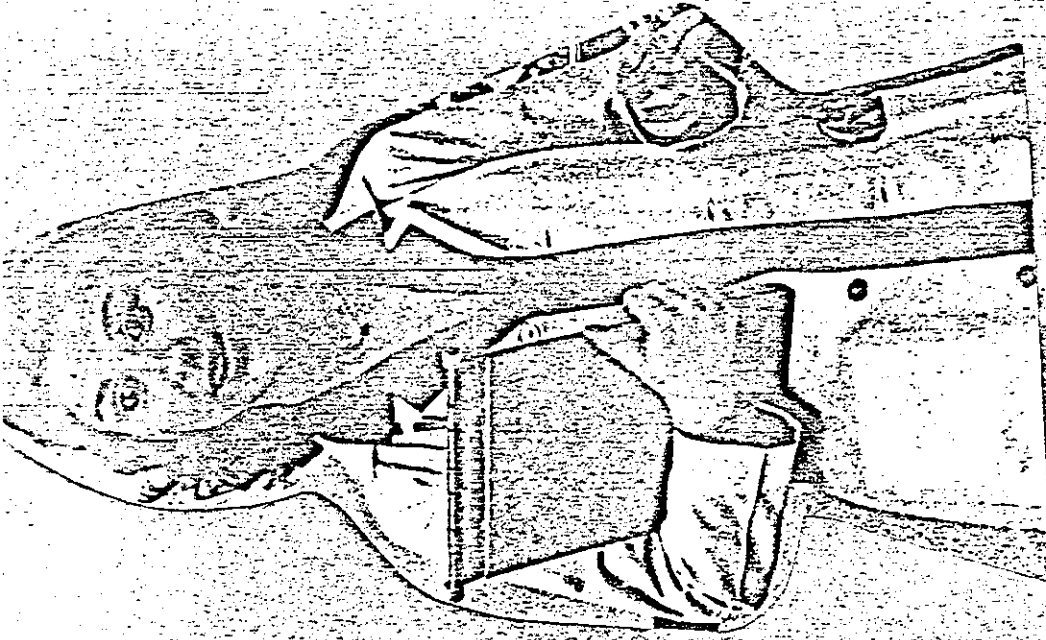
Correct Match: both move forward 3 spaces
Incorrect Match: both move backward 1 space



ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR LEFT:

Answer with only three words:
What does RICH mean to you?

Correct Match: both move forward 4 spaces
Incorrect Match: both move backward 2 spaces



ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR LEFT:

What is her job?

Correct Match: both move forward 4 spaces
Incorrect Match: both move backward 1 space



(a)



(b)

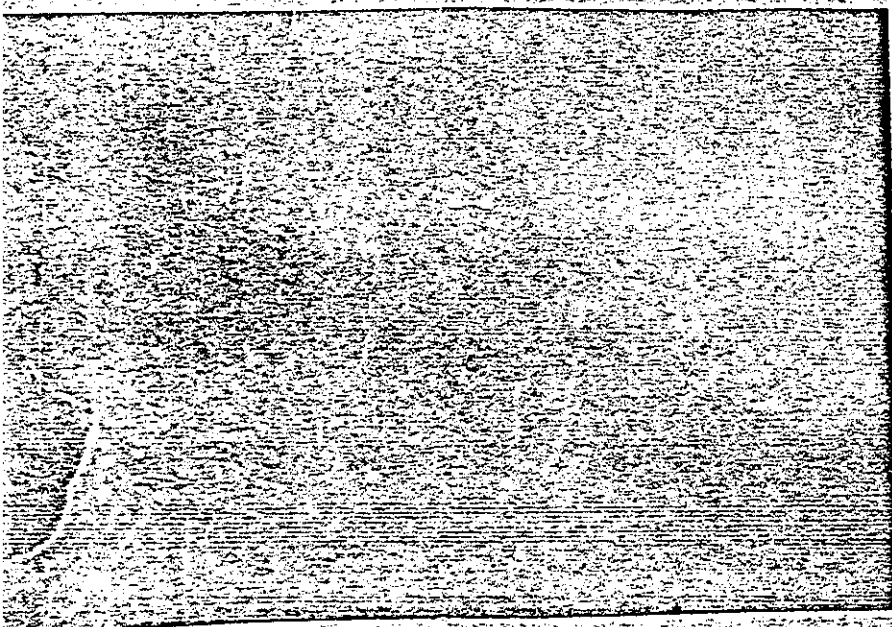
ASK THE PLAYER ACROSS FROM YOU:

Choose one answer:

Where would you like to live?

Correct Match: both move forward 4 spaces

Incorrect Match: Both move backward 1 space



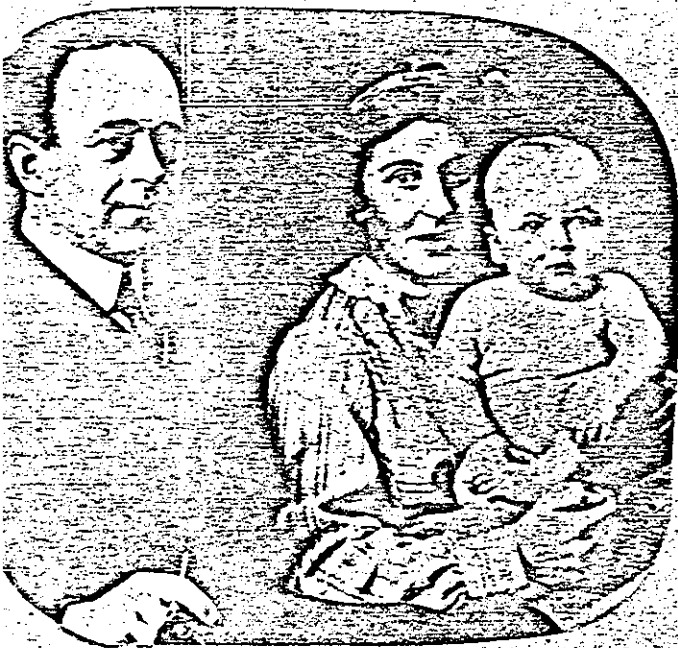
ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR LEFT:

1) What color is this?

and

2) What word tells how you feel when you see it?

1&2 Correct Match: both
move forward 4 spaces
Incorrect Match: both
move backward 2 spaces



ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR RIGHT:

Write what you see in one word.

Correct Match: both move forward
5 spaces

Incorrect match: both move backward
2 spaces

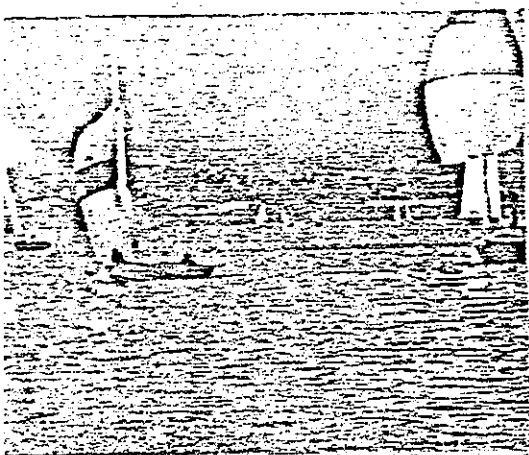


ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR RIGHT:

With ONE word, tell how you feel when you see
this photo.

Correct Match: both move forward 3 spaces

Incorrect Match: both move backward 1 space



(a)



(b)

ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR LEFT:

Choose one place for a vacation.

Correct Match: both move forward 5 spaces

Incorrect Match: both move backward 1 space

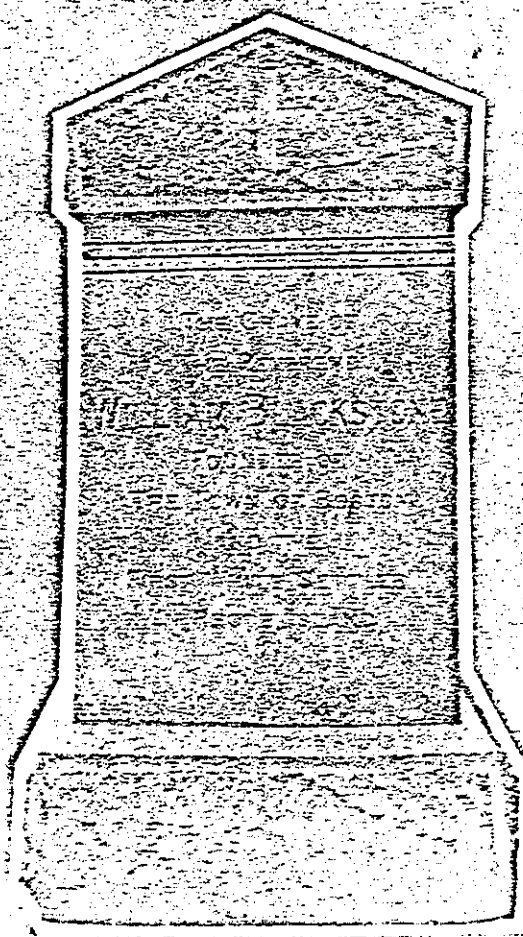
ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR LEFT:

(a)
When you die, will you be buried or
cremated?

(b)

Correct Match: both move forward 4 spaces

Incorrect Match: both move backward 2 spaces



YELLOW CARDS
BEGINNING SET

ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR LEFT:

Choose one answer:

Would you (a) drive a scarf?
(b) wear
(c) eat

SAME ANSWER: both move forward 4 spaces
DIFFERENT ANSWER: both move backward
2 spaces

1. Who is the president on the U.S. twenty-dollar (\$20) bill?
(a) Jackson (b) Lincoln (c) Kennedy (d) Grant
2. Which person is a composer?
(a) Modigliani (b) Mozart (c) Helmut Schmidt
3. How many people play on one volleyball team?
4. One meter equals approximately
(a) 12 inches (b) 100 inches (c) 39 inches (d) 48 inches
5. Which word is the same as Frightened?
(a) happy (b) angry (c) afraid (d) sleepy
6. Would you (a) drive (b) wear (c) eat a scarf?
7. One gallon equals approximately
(a) 6 liters (b) 4 liters (c) 2½ liters
8. Name a flower in English.
9. Would you (a) eat (b) kill a tortilla?
10. Who conquered Peru?
(a) Simon Bolivar (b) Herman Cortes (c) Francisco Pizarro
11. What was Rembrant?
(a) a musician (b) a farmer (c) an artist
12. How old was the United States of America in 1976?
13. Which is longer?
(a) an American football field (b) a soccer field
14. Write this number: twelve thousand, seven hundred, fifty-three
15. Name one color in English.
16. Name one fruit in English.
17. Which country has the largest population?
(a) India (b) China (c) Brazil (d) Russia
18. Which country is in Africa?
(a) Laos (b) Mali (c) Lebanon (d) Sri Lanka
19. Who painted the Mona Lisa?
(a) Picasso (b) Michelangelo (c) Rodin (d) da Vinci
20. Addis Ababa is the capital city of
(a) Arabia (b) Jordan (c) Ethiopia (d) Viet Nam

BLUE CARDS
BEGINNING SET

ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR RIGHT:

YES or NO?

Do you go to church every Sunday
in your country?

SAME ANSWER: both move forward 5 spaces
DIFFERENT ANSWER: both move backward
2 spaces

1. Married people I know are
(a) very happy (b) satisfied (c) unhappy
2. Which vegetable is similar to you?
(a) tomato (b) carrot (c) onion (d) pumpkin
3. Write the word that tells what you like to do most.
4. How do you usually decide something?
(a) at that moment (b) after a lot of thinking
5. Do you like Picasso's paintings?
6. Which car do you like most?
(a) Fiat sports car (b) Rolls Royce (c) Toyota
7. Which do you like most?
(a) a tub bath (b) a shower
8. How many pairs of shoes do you have here?
9. Approximately how many hours do you watch television every
day in your country?
10. What is your favorite dessert?
11. Write the word that tells about you:
(a) kind (b) emotional (c) happy (d) nervous
12. Do you go to church every Sunday in your country?
13. Do you like to swim?
14. Speaking in front of a group are you
(a) very nervous (b) a little nervous (c) not nervous
15. Do you like (a) classical (b) jazz (c) disco (d) rock and
roll music most?
16. You are coming to my house for dinner at 7 p.m. You will
arrive at (a) 7:15 (b) 7:00 (c) 7:30 (d) 6:45
17. Do you have any pets at home?
18. Do you know how to swim?
19. How do you feel today? (a) happy (b) tired (c) lonely (d)
angry
20. You have only one month to live. Which will you do?
(a) go to work (b) go on vacation (c) stay at home
21. How do you speak in your native language?
(a) slowly (b) quickly (c) clearly

BLUE CARDS - BEGINNING SET - continued

22. What is your favorite color?
23. How many sisters do you have?

ORANGE CARDS
BEGINNING SET

ASK THE PLAYER ACROSS FROM YOU:

YES or NO?

Police must carry guns.

SAME ANSWER: both move forward 5 spaces

DIFFERENT ANSWER: both move backward
1 space

1. The Bible is a very important book for me.
2. You don't like to hear "bad" words.
3. It's a bad idea for 16-year old people to smoke cigarettes.
4. Some people will go to Heaven when they die, others will go to Hell.
5. I want to be famous someday.
6. It's a good idea for children to go to church.
7. When a person has a problem, it's a good idea to think of happier things.
8. It's a bad idea for people with different religious ideas to marry.
9. Police must carry guns.
10. It's a good idea for people who are 65-years old to stop working.
11. For the government, the military is the most important.
12. When you see a crime, it's a good idea to call the police.
13. Men think more about their cars than about their clothes.
14. Birth control is a good idea.
15. Death is necessary for some crimes.
16. If you want something, you can get it.
17. Modern women are equal to modern men.
18. It's a good idea for doctors to receive more money than teachers.
19. Sex movies are a bad idea for children.
20. Sex before marriage is a big mistake.

YELLOW CARDS
INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED SET

ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR RIGHT:

How many days did Buddha sit under
the BO tree?

- (a) 666
- (b) 170
- (c) 49

CORRECT MATCH: both move forward 3 spaces
INCORRECT MATCH: both move backward
1 space

1. Who painted the Mona Lisa?
(a) Picasso (b) Michelangelo (c) Rodin (d) da Vinci
2. Would you (a) eat (b) kill a tortilla?
3. Which is longer?
(a) an American football field (b) a soccer field
4. Who did Rembrant use most often as a model?
(a) his mother (b) his father (c) himself
5. Name a piece that is used in the game of chess.
6. Which president is on the U.S. twenty-dollar (\$20) bill?
(a) Jackson (b) Lincoln (c) Theodore Roosevelt
7. One meter equals approximately
(a) 12 inches (b) 100 inches (c) 39 inches
8. Would you (a) drive (b) eat (c) wear a toupee?
9. Of what country is Addis Ababa the capital city?
(a) Arabia (b) Jordan (c) Ethiopia (d) Tunisia
10. Who conquered Peru?
(a) Simon Bolivar (b) Herman Cortes (c) Francisco Pizarro
11. Which country has the largest population?
(a) India (b) China (c) Russia (d) Canada
12. Who was the artist who painted Guernica?
13. One gallon equals approximately
(a) 6 liters (b) 4 liters (c) $2\frac{1}{2}$ liters
14. Who wrote the Marriage of Figaro opera?
(a) Mozart (b) Beethoven (c) Don Giovanni (d) Schubert
15. How many people are there on a team in volleyball?
16. How old was the country of the United States of America in 1976?
17. Who said, "I think, therefore I am" ?
(a) Emanuel Kant (b) Rene Descartes (c) Nietchze
18. Write this number on your paper: twelve thousand seven hundred
and fifty three
19. Can you name the little boy in the Winnie the Pooh stories?
20. How many days did Buddha sit under the BO tree?
(a) 666 (b) 170 (c) 49

ORANGE CARDS
INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED SET

ASK THE PLAYER ACROSS FROM YOU:

Do you agree or disagree with this sentence:

Couples today should have only two children.

CORRECT MATCH: move forward 4 spaces

INCORRECT MATCH: move backward 2 spaces

1. What would you most like to do for Mankind?
(a) solve a medical problem like cancer (b) make one person truly happy (c) have no children
2. Do doctors deserve higher incomes than teachers?
3. Most men are more concerned with the cars they drive than with the clothes they wear.
4. Sexual relations before marriage will probably make the marriage
(a) more permanent (b) more difficult (c) happier (d) no different
5. Some people will go to Heaven when they die, others will go to Hell.
6. "Dirty" words bother me (a) sometimes (b) every time I hear them (c) never.
7. In my life the Bible is (a) very important (b) important (c) not important
8. Which do you agree with? (a) Children should be protected from pornography in books and movies or (b) Both children and adults should be free to see or read anything they choose
9. What is the most important lesson for children to learn?
(a) respect for GOD (b) respect for authority (c) respect for property (d) respect for their bodies
10. Couples today should have only two children.
11. Do you favor capital punishment in some crimes?
12. Would you tell your 16-year old son or daughter that s/he can't smoke cigarettes?
13. Most people know what's good for them.
14. Police should carry guns.
15. Marriage between persons with different religious beliefs is generally not a good idea.
16. No weakness or difficulty can stop us if we have enough will power.
17. Monogamy is monotonous.
18. The first priority of the Federal Government should be
(a) education (b) crime prevention (c) military (d) ecology

ORANGE CARDS - INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED SET - continued

19. Women should (a) have a job and a career (b) take care of the children and the household only (c) have a job only if absolutely necessary
20. Retirement from work at age 65 should be required for (a) all occupations (b) most occupations (c) no occupations
21. Cigarette advertising should be (a) prohibited in magazines (b) prohibited everywhere (c) permitted everywhere
22. If you saw someone burning the flag of your country, what would you do? (a) call the police (b) swear at him/her (c) stop him/her (d) ignore him/her
23. It's a good idea to tell a person with a problem to keep busy with more cheerful things.
24. My religious beliefs affect any decision I make.

BLUE CARDS
INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED SET

ASK THE PLAYER ON YOUR LEFT:

Choose one answer:

If I asked you to dinner, would you arrive

- (a) early
- (b) exactly on time
- (c) a few minutes late
- (d) very late

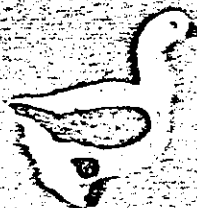
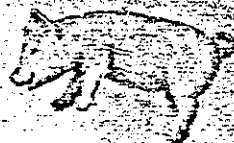
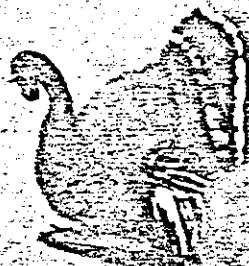
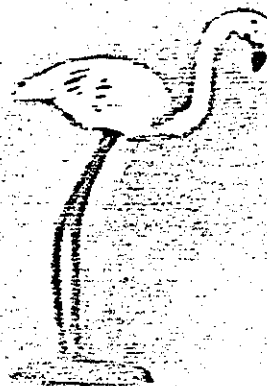
CORRECT MATCH: move forward 5 spaces

INCORRECT MATCH: move backward 1 space

1. How many sisters do you have?
2. What is your favorite color?
3. Draw either a square, a star, a circle, a cross.
4. What is the name of your favorite fruit?
5. Which do you prefer? (a) a tub bath (b) a shower
6. Draw a figure doing something you like to do.
7. Do you attend religious services regularly at home?
8. Have you ever gone swimming without any clothes on?
9. Do you consider yourself (a) an independent person or (b) a dependent person
10. Which word most closely describes yourself? (a) efficient (b) determined (c) creative (d) lazy
11. Approximately how many hours do you watch television each day in your own country?
12. If you had only one month to live you would prefer to spend it (a) on vacation (b) on the job (c) at home
13. Choose one word which best describes yourself (a) kind (b) optimistic (c) emotional (d) adventurous
14. How do you usually make decisions? (a) at the moment without thinking (b) after thinking a long time
15. What type of music do you enjoy most? (a) classical (b) jazz (c) disco (d) folk (e) rock and roll
16. Which activity do you enjoy most? (a) camping (b) dancing (c) reading (d) watching TV
17. Speaking in front of more than 12 people, do you become (a) very nervous (b) a little nervous (c) not nervous at all
18. Draw a face which shows how you felt sometime today.
19. Do you think you are ambitious?
20. Do you like Picasso's paintings?
21. Most married people I know are (a) extremely happy (b) happy most of the time (c) unhappy (d) miserable
22. What is your favorite dessert?

BLUE CARDS - INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED SET - continued

23. Which quality do you want most in a friend? (a) honesty
(b) warmth (c) beauty (d) money
24. How do you describe your speech in your native language?
(a) slow (b) rapid (c) clear
25. If I asked you to dinner, would you arrive (a) early (b)
exactly on time (c) a few minutes late (d) very late



Six tokens

and

Die

